



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### Memorandum

To: Federal Aviation Administration

From: Refuge Manager  
Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Subject: Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Surveys of Wildlife and their Habitats on  
National Wildlife Refuges in Region 8

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has requested support from the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) regarding a project to use a Raven and T-hawk un-manned aircraft system (UAS) and imaging system to conduct a survey of a portion of the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge during a period of time between September 1, 2013 and September 1, 2014.

The project proposal indicates a necessity to fly the Raven and T-hawk at very low altitude (100'-400').

Since FWS operates in an oversight capacity as the deeded landowner, I am authorized to grant site visits within Refuge lands and waters. I am granting permission to the USGS UAS Project Office for the low level flights. Based on the proposal, I believe this project will provide significant gains in data quality, reduced costs, and elimination of risk associated with manned aircraft flights.

cc: USGS